
HOUSE BILL 3209

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Hinkle, Roach, Haler, Condotta, Warnick, and Kretz

Read first time 01/24/08. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring recipients of temporary assistance for
2 needy families to participate in activities designed to reduce and
3 eliminate barriers to employment; and amending RCW 74.08A.260.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.260 and 2006 c 107 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) Each recipient shall be assessed after determination of program
8 eligibility and before referral to job search. Assessments shall be
9 based upon factors that are critical to obtaining employment, including
10 but not limited to education, availability of child care, history of
11 family violence, history of substance abuse, and other factors that
12 affect the ability to obtain employment. Assessments may be performed
13 by the department or by a contracted entity. The assessment shall be
14 based on a uniform, consistent, transferable format that will be
15 accepted by all agencies and organizations serving the recipient.
16 Based on the assessment, an individual responsibility plan shall be
17 prepared that: (a) Sets forth an employment goal and a plan for moving
18 the recipient immediately into employment; (b) contains the obligation
19 of the recipient to become and remain employed; (c) moves the recipient

1 into whatever employment the recipient is capable of handling as
2 quickly as possible; and (d) describes the services available to the
3 recipient to enable the recipient to obtain and keep employment.

4 (2) If the assessment conducted under this section or other
5 reliable information indicates the likelihood that the recipient's
6 reliance on public assistance is the result in whole or in part of the
7 recipient's substance abuse or chemical dependency, the individual
8 responsibility plan developed under this section shall include a
9 process for the recipient to engage in periodic urinalysis drug
10 testing, which may be accomplished through a treatment program, routine
11 employer screening of employees, or other lawful means.

12 (3) Recipients who are not engaged in work and work activities, and
13 do not qualify for a good cause exemption under RCW 74.08A.270, shall
14 engage in self-directed service as provided in RCW 74.08A.330.

15 ~~((+3))~~ (4) If a recipient refuses to engage in work and work
16 activities required by the department, the family's grant shall be
17 reduced by the recipient's share, and may, if the department determines
18 it appropriate, be terminated.

19 ~~((+4))~~ (5) The department may waive the penalties required under
20 subsection ~~((+3))~~ (4) of this section, subject to a finding that the
21 recipient refused to engage in work for good cause provided in RCW
22 74.08A.270.

23 ~~((+5))~~ (6) In implementing this section, the department shall
24 assign the highest priority to the most employable clients, including
25 adults in two-parent families and parents in single-parent families
26 that include older preschool or school-age children to be engaged in
27 work activities.

28 ~~((+6))~~ (7) In consultation with the recipient, the department or
29 contractor shall place the recipient into a work activity that is
30 available in the local area where the recipient resides.

31 ~~((+7))~~ (8) Assessments conducted under this section shall include
32 a consideration of the potential benefit to the recipient of engaging
33 in financial literacy activities. The department shall consider the
34 options for financial literacy activities available in the community,
35 including information and resources available through the financial
36 literacy public-private partnership created under RCW 28A.300.450. The

1 department may authorize up to ten hours of financial literacy
2 activities as a core activity or an optional activity under WorkFirst.

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